

ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS
IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, AN AFFILIATED
GROUP OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

MATHWEST NEWS

September 2004 Volume 17, Issue 3

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**Come Celebrate 20 Years
of MATHWEST!!!
Thursday, November 18
4:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Clarion Hotel
1 Atwood Drive, Northampton**

This year's fall general membership meeting will be a casual buffet dinner. We will have plenty of time to mingle and get to know the math professionals in Western Massachusetts that make up MATHWEST.

Please return the information sheet inside by November 12 to be included in the fun and festivities. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Our NEW and IMPROVED website will be
coming soon!!
Look in future issues for details!**

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A Message from Our President

Mathematics education is a very challenging field for many reasons, some intrinsic to the content, others completely extrinsic to the field. Intrinsicly, there are the numerous, daily demands of education today: classroom organization and management, discipline, pedagogy, and the plethora of teaching methods and approaches; the regimented scope, depth, and sequence of mathematical content; the undisputable connection of mathematics to sound logic and reasoning; the strong presence of symbols, operations, relations, and patterns; the intermingling of the various branches of mathematics; the infinite variety and complexity of practical applications, and the self-discipline and perseverance needed to guarantee any degree of success.

Extrinsicly, we find the tedium of repetition and practice needed for mastery of the early stages of mathematics; the prejudice of society against mathematics; the variety of preparations that teachers have had for the teaching of mathematics; the increasing complexity of multi-step problems; dealing with parents, principals, and sometimes uninterested children; and the seemingly unending documenting and bookkeeping tasks that are associated with teaching.

There is satisfaction and contentment in using your imagination, intuition, and reasoning! There is enjoyment found in exploring new ideas, discovering new methods of problem solving! There is pleasure and gratification in discovering new ideas and expressing them in clear and concise language and symbolism. Especially, there is real fulfillment in welcoming our students and helping them to examine, interpret, discuss, and scrutinize the many avenues of mathematical thought and logic included in their mathematical journey for this year.

As mathematics educators, this new school year presents all of these challenges, and more, for each of us in our individual classrooms. Regardless of the grade and mathematical content that you teach, regardless of your background and preparation for the teaching of mathematics, regardless of the methods you use or the kinds of décor in your class may you experience the JOY of teaching, the JOY of teaching mathematics, and the JOY of teaching YOUR students mathematics.

Louise M. Lataille

Celebrate Metric Week

Break out your rulers! It's time to celebrated National Metric Week. This fall, the week of October 10-16 (the 10th month of the year and the week containing the 10th day) will be set aside to celebrate the metric system. Americans will have an opportunity to focus on the importance and convenience of the measurement system based on 10s. Here are some sources of information and ideas for lessons:

1. **U.S. Metric Association (USMA)** can provide resources and ideas, including suggestions for celebrating National Metric Week. lamar.colostate.edu/~hillger/ideas.htm
2. **Mini Metric Olympics** is a 13-page guide that includes plans for activities that can be used to host Metric Olympic events. www.aimsedu.org/activities/minimetrics/mini-metrics.pdf
3. **Metric Mania Lessons** offers metric lessons and activities, many of which include student worksheets in PDF format. sciencespot.net/Pages/classmetric.html#Anchor-General-49575
4. **AAA Math West site** has a Web pages devoted to teaching measurement operations to students in grades K-8, featuring interactive practice and challenge problems. www.aaamath.com/mea.html
5. **Magical Metric Madness** include pretests and introductory lesson on metric. king.prps.k12.ca.us/prhs/pasohigh/classes/Fairbank/public.www/homepage/chemist/metric/Metrhome.htm

Ruth O'Malley Presenter's Award

Ruth O'Malley is a past president of MATHWEST as well as ATMNE, the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England. In her long and distinguished career as an educator, Ruth has served as a mentor to many individuals, sharing her educational philosophy and ideas on teaching mathematics with others in our profession.

The Ruth O'Malley Presenter's Award is a grant for up to \$100 made to individuals who will carry on Ruth's legacy by sharing their ideas with other educators at a mathematics conference. MATHWEST members, in good standing, who present at a NCTM annual meetings, regional conference, or a conference sponsored by a NCTM affiliate, are eligible to apply. The grant is to be used to help defray printing and material costs associated with their presentation.

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____



E-mail: _____

School System: _____

School Name: _____

Years of Teaching: _____ Amount Requested: _____

Type/Name of Conference: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

Proposals will be reviewed as they are received at the next scheduled MATHWEST Board Meeting. Although the grant may be awarded, reimbursement will only occur after receipts and proof of conference participation is received.

Send completed applications to:
Barbara Martowski
965 Ware Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Summarize your presentation on no more than two pages and include:

- A. Previous Speaker Experience
- B. Title of Presentation
- C. Target Audience / Grade Band
- D. Description of Presentation
- E. Projected Budget

MATHWEST Calendar

Enter the Matrix

October

- 4-9 ~ National Metric Week
- 14-16 ~ NCTM Regional
Baltimore, MD
- 19 ~ AP Calculus Get-Together
- 21-23 ~ NCTM Regional Conference
Providence, Rhode Island
- 28 ~ MATHWEST Board Meeting
4 PM; Friendly's, West Springfield

November

- 4 ~ MATHWEST Fall Meeting
- 16 ~ AP Calculus Get-Together

December

- 21 ~ AP Calculus Get-Together

January

- 6 ~ MATHWEST Board Meeting
- 14 ~ Trip to Mohegan Sun
- 20 ~ New Teacher Forum
4 PM; Hubbard Mem. Library, Ludlow
- 25 ~ AP Calculus Support Group
3 - 4:30 PM; Ludlow High School

February

- 15 ~ Conference Early Registration Due
- 15 ~ Teacher of the Year Nom. Due

March

- 1 ~ AP Calculus Support Group
3 - 4:30 PM; Ludlow High School
- 3 ~ MATHWEST Board Meeting
4 PM; Friendly's, West Springfield
- 14 ~ Pi Day
- 18 ~ Conference Registration Deadline
- 24 ~ MATHWEST Spring Conference
"Hands-On Mathematics"
7:30 - 3:15 PM; Springfield Marriott
- 29 ~ AP Calculus Support Group
3 - 4:30 PM; Ludlow High School

April Math Education Month

- 2 ~ Practice AP Calc & AP Stats Exam
8 - 1 PM, First Baptist, Agawam
- 6 - 9 ~ 83rd NCTM Annual Meeting
Anaheim, CA
- 26 ~ AP Calculus Support Group
3 - 4:30 PM; Ludlow High School

May

- 5 ~ MATHWEST Board Meeting
4 PM; Friendly's, West Springfield

You are invited to join fellow educators from pre-kindergarten through college in Providence, RI, October 21-23, 2004 in the "MatRix for Success". Choose from over 170 sessions, workshops, and mini-courses. Speakers from California to Maine, and from Australia to Iceland are here for this year's Annual Conference of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics (ATMNE) in New England.

Consider...

- Uncovering the mathematics in *The Da Vinci Code*, *Angels and Demons*, and *Digital Fortress*. **Richard Brown**, Dan Brown's dad and a noted mathematics teacher and author himself, will talk about the mathematics in Dan's blockbuster bestsellers.
- Participating in the Conference within the Conference. Observe classes of elementary, middle, and high school students as they use standards-based programs. Watch, try, and discuss! OR Attending sessions on issues in mathematics education with current NCTM President **Cathy Seeley**, Past President **Glenda Lappan**, and Executive Director **James Rubillo**.
- Exploring mathematics with technology, using the *Geometer's Sketchpad* and Texas Instruments calculators.
- Connecting literacy and mathematics, differentiated learning and excellence for all.
- Meeting **Greg Tang**, author of *The Grapes of Math*, *The Best of Times*, and other best-selling rhyming math riddle books, during his session and his book signing.
- Decoding NCLB and mandated assessments.
- Discussing changes to the Math SAT.

Collaborate with fellow mathematics educators at these and other exciting events! For a schedule of sessions and a registration form, go to

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Which type of registration do you need?

_____ \$10 for members (includes dinner)

_____ \$25 for members (includes dinner and membership renewal)

_____ \$25 for non-member (includes dinner and 1 year membership)

Note: If you need a membership, please also fill out the form on the back

REGISTRATION:

Fill out the form to the LEFT and send it, along with your check payable to MATHWEST, to:

MATHWEST
P.O. Box 139
Feeding Hills, MA
01030-0139

DEADLINE: **NOVEMBER 12**

DIRECTIONS:

The Clarion Hotel is located immediately off Exit 18 off I-91. You can see the signs from the interstate.

MATHWEST
Teacher of the Year Award

The Board of Directors of MATHWEST is pleased to announce the creation of the Teacher of the Year Award. The award will recognize teachers in Western Massachusetts for outstanding contributions to the advancement of mathematics education and teaching. Three awards will be given per year. The categories for the awards are: current K – 6 teachers, current 7 – 12 teachers, and retired teachers.

Criteria

Use the following criteria as general guidelines for your nomination.

- The educator has taught for a minimum of 5 years.
- The educator has been involved: statewide, regionally, and nationally.
- The educator has introduced or modified new teaching and learning programs.
- The educator has presented workshops and/or lectures.
- The educator has published materials of value in mathematics education.
- The educator has provided services to professional organizations.
- The educator has demonstrated enthusiasm and a continual search for knowledge.
- The educator has demonstrated leadership in mathematics education
- The educator has made a long-term impact on students.
- The educator has made other contributions to be considered.

Nominations:

Nominations are encouraged and can come from professionals in the field of education from across Western Massachusetts. Nominators should fill out the nomination form below and include *a maximum* of a two-page essay describing why the nominee should be considered for this award. Nominations should be received by February 1, 2005.

Nominee: _____ School: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Numbers (home): _____ (work): _____ (email) _____

Current position and grades taught: _____

Number of years teaching: _____ Other subjects taught: _____

Award Type: K – 6 Educator 7 – 12 Educator Retired Educator

Nominator: _____ Nominator's Telephone Number: _____

Mail Nomination Materials To:

MATHWEST
PO Box 139
Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0139

Note about submissions:

All nominations must be received by February 1, 2005. The Board of Directors will review the submissions and determine the recipients. The nominators, the three recipients and the press will be notified of the Board's decision. Awards will be given at the MATHWEST general membership meeting in the spring.

The Mary Alice Wilson Grant

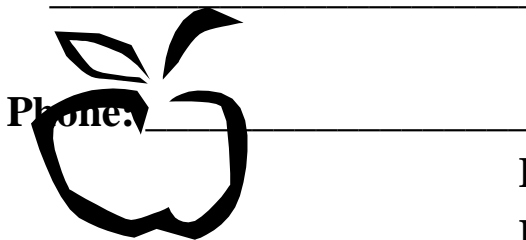
GRANT APPLICATION

While associated with The Five College/Public School Partnership, Mary Alice Wilson was instrumental in the first PIMMS Initiative from which the decision to fund MATHWEST originated. The Mary Alice Wilson Grant is funded by MATHWEST, The Association of Teachers of Mathematics in Western Massachusetts, for the purpose of enhancing mathematics understanding and appreciation in grades K—16. Grants are awarded annually for up to \$500 per project, \$1000 per year. Only members of MATHWEST are eligible to receive the award.

Grant proposals will be reviewed and granted by the MATHWEST board on the first meeting following the respective application cutoff dates. All applicants will be notified within two weeks of the Board's meeting. The check award and form for the final grant evaluation will be sent

Name of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____



Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

School System: _____

School Name: _____

Years of Teaching Experience: _____

Amount Requested: _____

Please return proposals by **October 1st** or **February 1st** of each year. Grants are reviewed and awarded in November and March with the final report due by November or March of the following year.

Return proposal to:

Nancy Strouse
MATHWEST
PO Box 139
Feeding Hills, MA 01060-0139

Summarize your proposal on no more than two pages and include:

- A. goals and objectives
- B. the population to be served
- C. tasks to complete the project
- D. timeline
- E. evaluation instrument
- F. how it will affect the MATHWEST membership
- G. project budget



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NE Mathematics Journal

Editorial Advisor

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Keene, NH 03431

Editor's Corner

If you have any articles or professional development opportunities that you feel would benefit other MATHWEST members or if you have any suggestions, please email them to...

MATHWESTnews@yahoo.com

Please send them as either a Microsoft Word document or in the text of an e-mail message.

We appreciate your input into this newsletter!! Thank you for your contributions.

*P.O. Box 139
Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0139*

MATHWEST NEWS



Please: If paying by PO, please include the names and addresses of members to be renewed.

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Are you a member of NCTM? YES NO
A member of another NCTM affiliate? YES NO If yes, which one? _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Membership Category: Area of Professional Interest: Application Type:
_____ 1 Year Regular (\$15) _____ Elementary _____ New Membership
_____ 1 Year Full-Time Student (\$5) _____ Middle School _____ Renewal
_____ 1 Year Full-Time Retired (\$10) _____ Secondary
_____ 3 Year Regular (\$40) _____ College

MATHWEST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Mail to: MATHWEST, P.O. Box 139, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0139